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LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for the information of members of the Security Council, a communiqué dated 1 December 1996 from the Government of the Republic of Zaire concerning the situation in eastern Zaire.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex issued as a Security Council document.

(Signed) UKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAJI
Minister Plenipotentiary and
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Communiqué from the Government of Zaire dated 1 December 1996 concerning the situation in eastern Zaire

1. On Saturday 30 November 1996 at 3.15 p.m., while troops of the Zairian armed forces were moving towards Butembo and, on the way, inflicting enormous losses on the aggressors, elements of the Ugandan regular army, travelling in tanks and armoured vehicles, arrived to reinforce the soldiers of the Rwandan patriotic army, entering Zaire through the border crossing point at Kasindi.

2. Since then, fighting has been raging between the Zairian armed forces and the invaders, who are trying to surround the town of Beni.

3. This incursion of the Ugandan army into Zairian territory follows attacks waged by that army against the Zairian districts of Jomba, Bunagana, Mahagi, Aru and Kasindi, in particular, in April, June, September, October and November 1996 respectively.

4. Notwithstanding the allegations that the repeated incursions of the Ugandan army against Zairian territory represent the right of pursuit against supporters of the Democratic Allied Front (FAD), a Ugandan rebel movement which is alleged to be supported by the Zairian authorities, the Government of the Republic of Zaire affirms that Uganda's latest attack against Zaire, with the help of tanks and armoured vehicles, is in reality the most irrefutable evidence of the involvement of the Ugandan army in the war which Rwanda is waging against Zaire in the regions of North Kivu and South Kivu.

5. The Government of the Republic of Zaire condemns in the strongest terms this aggression by Uganda against its territory.

6. The Government of Zaire also categorically denies the absurd affirmations about the support it is allegedly providing to FAD, about which nothing is known in Beni and Kasindi. The Zairian Government has not extended its support or recognition to any Ugandan rebel movement, and it knows nothing about the "Democratic Allied Front", whose actions are alleged by the Ugandan Government to have given rise to the right of pursuit in Zairian territory. Moreover, it is not maintaining and has not authorized any base for Ugandan Muslim rebels in its territory. The occupation by the Ugandan troops of the towns of Kasindi and Beni, along with the affirmations by the spokesman for the Ugandan Government that the Ugandan troops will remain in Zairian territory until the Zairian Government abandons its support for the Ugandan Muslim rebels in the border area and restores its authority in this region, is a pretext to justify the unprovoked aggression perpetrated against the Republic of Zaire.

7. The Government of the Republic of Zaire notes, further, that since Uganda has shown itself to be a belligerent State on the side of Rwanda, it is automatically disqualified from participating in the organizing committee of the multinational force established by the Ottawa meeting of 29 November 1996.

8. The involvement of the Ugandan army in the war which Rwanda is imposing on Zaire also invalidates the decision of the multinational force to establish its headquarters in Entebbe or Kampala.

9. The Government of the Republic of Zaire draws the attention of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the seriousness of the incidents described above.

10. The Government therefore calls on them to take energetic measures as a matter of urgency to put an end to Uganda's armed incursions into Zairian territory.

(Signed) Gérard KAMANDA wa KAMANDA
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of the Interior
Chairman of the Interministerial
Crisis Committee